IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A composition comprising a population of polylactide or poly (D-L-lactide-co-glycolide) (PLGA) polymer microspheres encapsulating an antigen, wherein said population is produced from an emulsion comprising aqueous antigen and a polylactide or PLGA polymer, and

(a) the emulsion comprises 1 milliliter or less of aqueous antigen per 3 grams of polymer [or less];

(b) the [PLGA] polymer has a ratio of lactide to glycolide of about [ranging from] about 100:0 to 50:50 weight percent;

(c) the [PLGA] polymer has an inherent viscosity of about 0.1 to 1.2 dL/g;

(d) the microspheres have a median diameter of about [ranging from] about 20 to 100 μm; and

(e) the microspheres have an antigen release profile characterized by three phases: a first phase, wherein about 0.5 to 30 percent of the antigen is released from the microspheres over a period of about 1 to 2 days, a second phase beginning at the completion of the first phase wherein less than 10 percent of the antigen is released from the microspheres over a period ranging from about 30 to 180 days, and a third phase beginning at the completion of the second phase wherein the remaining antigen is released from the microspheres over a period ranging from about 10 to 30 days.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-9, and 23-27 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to even more clearly recite the invention and not to distinguish prior art. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.